In the specification:

Please amend the title as follows:

--Transmission Mode Signaling with a Slot--

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 6 as follows:

--FIG. 4 shows a mechanism 130 governing a transfer of energy from the transmission lines 102, 104 and 106 (microstrip mode) to the slot 108 (slotline mode). When the driving agent 132 (e.g., processor 12) sources a current onto the driving line 134 (e.g., transmission line 102,104 or ~~101~~106), a transient return current 136 is induced on the reference plane 110. Ideally, the transient return current 136 travels directly below the microstrip transmission line 134. However, when the transient return current 136 encounters the slot 108 in the reference plane 110, it will take a path 138 of least impedance and flow around the slot 108. This transfers the energy from the microstrip transmission mode, i.e., from transmission line 134, to the slotline transmission mode, i.e., to slot 108.--

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 17 as follows:

--The bus 100 includes a series of transmission lines (also referred to microstrip lines) 102, 104 and 106 that pass over a slot 108 in a reference (ground or floating) plane 110. Slot 108 is terminated to reference plane 110 by short circuits 118 and 120. The transmission lines 102, 104 and 106 route signals, respectively, from processor 112, 114 and 116 to locations over the slot 108. In some implementations, transmission lines 102, 104, and 106 are terminated at reference plane 110 at points 122, 124, and 126, respectively. When properly excited, the slot 108 functions as a transmission line (referred to as a slotline), i.e., the slot 108 functions as a main bus trunk. The processors 112, 114 and 116, also referred to as agents, communicate with each other by transferring energy from a microstrip (or stripline) transmission mode, i.e., a mode in which signals can travel in the transmission lines, to a slotline transmission mode, i.e., a mode in which signals traveling in the slot 108, and vice versa.--